

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 351

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

**F. Jay Barrows**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Richard T. Moore	Worcester and Norfolk
Scott P. Brown	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Lewis G. Evangelidis	1st Worcester
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Elizabeth Poirier	14th Bristol
Daniel K. Webster	6th Plymouth
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Stephen M. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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An Act directing the Department of Education to include a course in civics as a high school graduation requirement

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1:** Section 2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is amended, in line 7, by inserting  
2 after “... for the duties of citizenship.” The following:

3 The successful completion of a course in civics shall be mandated as a requirement for all students in  
4 order to receive their high school diploma. The department of education shall set guidelines for all school  
5 districts relative to the implementation of the civics course. At minimum, the course must educate  
6 students in the following criteria:

- 7                   a.) Composition of local, state, and federal government
- 8                   b.) Function of the branches of local, state, and federal government
- 9                   c.) Responsibilities and duties as an American citizen
- 10                  d.) Opportunities for voter participation
- 11                  e.) Exposure to current events and identification of government officials

12 **SECTION 2:** The department shall take all reasonable efforts to accomplish the establishment of  
13 necessary regulations by May 1, 2010, in order that the provisions of this act may be implemented in the  
14 following school year.